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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): S. MAEDA, et al  
Serial No.: 09/294,137  
Filed: April 20, 1999  
For: DEFECT INSPECTION METHOD AND APPARATUS  
Group:  
Examiner:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

July 13, 1999

Sir:

The following preliminary amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the above-identified application.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 32, line 7, delete "2" insert --52--.

**REMARKS**

By the above preliminary amendment, "stage 2" at page 32, line 7, of the specification has been corrected to --stage 52-- so as to correspond to the attached proposed drawing correction to Fig. 24. Entry of the such amendment and